

who do play by the rules, and who don't need a bailout. By reducing the tax reductions for mortgage interest, the Democrats are raising taxes, and they are growing government while reducing economic incentives for those who have resources to invest in a faltering economy.

Further, at this time of need, now is not the time to reduce the benefits for making charitable donations. Non-profit religious organizations and institutions of higher education are also struggling in this economy. The net result of the President's budget is less money for donating to those worthwhile causes.

We do have a choice: do you want to keep your money and spend your money, or do you want the government bureaucracy to tax and spend? I believe in the American people; it's their money, not the government's money. Government is not the solution, the American people are the solution.

CONGRATULATING THE 2008 STATE CHAMPION ELK LAKE WARRIORS

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2008 Pennsylvania State championship boys cross-country team, the Elk Lake Warriors. I am blessed to have five terrific kids, all of whom attend Elk Lake, and my oldest three boys are all cross-country runners.

The cross-country team's victory is remarkable for many reasons, it's only the third State championship that Elk Lake has ever won. But what I found truly remarkable was their inspirational path to victory. Not one runner on the team won an individual medal at the State meet, but working together, they won the State title, an incredible lesson for us all. They each gave it their all and demonstrated an incredible dedication to each other and their team; they were victorious.

As we know, our Nation is facing incredible challenges right now. It is all too easy to forget the simple value of pulling together and putting aside our differences in difficult times. I am confident that if we all heed the lessons offered by a small rural school in Pennsylvania, we will succeed. And once again, my congratulations to the 2008 State champions, the Elk Lake Warriors.

MORE TAXES—LESS PROSPERITY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, history shows that if you tax something, you get less of it; if you subsidize something, you're going to get more of it.

This budget raises taxes. We shouldn't raise taxes during a recession

on anyone that pays taxes. Tax increase will do several things. Small businesses that pay most of the taxes, they will have a tax increase. So to pay for these new taxes, they're going to have to cut jobs to pay for those taxes. It raises the utility rates on people that use energy. Now, that hurts those folks, the working poor, who have a fixed income, in essence, a tax increase on the poor. It cuts deductions for home mortgages and charitable contributions; that, in essence, hurts people who try to live in a home and contribute to charities. And the budget redistributes wealth.

Abraham Lincoln said, "You don't make the poor rich by making the rich poor and you don't make the weak strong by making the strong weak."

The budget is flawed with more government spending, more government control, and it raises taxes. Taxes will create less prosperity, not more prosperity.

And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO QUENTIN MEASE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a giant in our community in Houston, Texas, that we lost just a few days ago.

Quentin Mease was 100 years old, and he lived that life vigorously and with great fulfillment. He was a servant of the people. No, he was not elected, but he was one of the founding members of the National Urban League Houston chapter. He was a founding member of what is now called the Harris County Hospital District. One of the satellite hospitals was named after Quentin Mease.

He was truly a giver, a philanthropic, a person who believed that he was, in fact, our brothers' and sisters' keeper. He lost his life, but he was full of life when he passed. He will be recognized on Thursday for a wake and Friday for a funeral.

I believe the words of the President of the United States in his African American History Month that said, "The ideals of the founders became more real and more true for every citizen of African American ancestry to realize our full potential as a Nation, and to uphold those ideals for all who enter into our borders and embrace the notion that we all are endowed with certain inalienable rights."

Quentin Mease, fallen in battle, believed that we were all endowed with certain inalienable rights. He gave his all. He wanted us all to be embraced under this bright and shining flag. He believed in America. As an African American, he is a giant, and I thank him for highlighting young people like myself to give us an opportunity to go forward into the future.

Thank you, Mr. Mease. May God bless you. And may God bless you as you rest in peace.

SMALL BUSINESS—KEY TO GETTING OUR ECONOMY BACK ON TRACK

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, unemployment in my home State of Florida and across the country continues to rise. As the stock markets and retirement accounts fall, our national debt is approaching \$11 trillion. And just last week, Congress approved, over my objections, a \$410 billion spending bill that was 8 percent higher than last year, more than twice the rate of inflation. On top of all this new spending, we now hear that the White House is proposing nearly \$1 trillion in new taxes. Now is not the time to be raising taxes or embarking on a reckless spending spree.

Rather than exploding the size of Federal Government, Congress should be working to strengthen the backbone of our economy with small businesses. Seventy percent of all new jobs are created by small business, many of them in our area family owned.

Let's get our economy back on track by helping to work with small businesses. That's the legacy that we want to leave our children and grandchildren.

PASS THE HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, by now we all know what a central role the housing market crisis has played in our economic troubles. The housing meltdown is devastating for families and communities, particularly for innocent families who have lived within their means and paid their mortgages on time. Through no fault of their own, their home values are eroding and their life savings are threatened. That's why we must pass the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act. It restores fairness to the bankruptcy system.

Current law allows loan modifications for vacation homes and yachts, yet prohibits them for primary residences. This bill will end this inequity. It also fixes the Hope for Homeowners program to increase mortgage modifications and reduce foreclosures. It is not about bailing out lenders or borrowers who made irresponsible decisions, it is, rather, finding fair and effective solutions to stabilizing the housing crisis and stabilizing the market.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is also needed to get our country back on track. I urge my colleagues to vote for a stronger economy and vote for this bill.